

CLAIMS

1. A brake system configured for use with a shopping cart, comprising:

a shopping cart handle having opposed ends;

5 a pivoting member attached to each one of said opposed ends of the shopping cart handle
and configured for being attached to a shopping cart frame, wherein each pivoting
member enables the shopping cart handle to be moved between an at-rest position and
a displaced position; and

a braking force apparatus coupled to the shopping cart handle, wherein the braking force
10 apparatus is configured for being selectively movable between a normally applied
braking force state and a disengaged state when the handle is correspondingly moved
between the at-rest position and the displaced position.

2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

15 a cable connected between the shopping cart handle and the braking force apparatus,
wherein the cable applies a force for moving the braking force apparatus from the
normally applied braking force state to the disengaged state when the shopping cart
handle is moved from the at-rest position toward the displaced position.

- 20 3. The system of claim 2, further comprising:

a resilient member coupled to the shopping cart handle, wherein the resilient member
biases the shopping cart handle toward the at-rest position whereby the cable exerts a
corresponding force on the braking force apparatus for biasing the braking force
apparatus to the normally applied braking force state.

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4. The system of claim 2, further comprising:

means for applying a force on the cable when the shopping cart handle is moved from the
at-rest position toward the displaced position.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the braking force apparatus includes a resilient member biasing the braking force apparatus to the normally applied braking force state.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein the braking force apparatus is configured for applying a
5 braking force on at least one of opposed faces of a shopping cart wheel and a rolling surface of a shopping cart wheel.
7. The system of claim 1 wherein the braking force apparatus includes a wheel clamping caliper.
- 10 8. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a cable connected between the shopping cart handle and the braking force apparatus;
means for biasing the braking force apparatus to the normally applied braking force state;
and
means for applying a force on the cable when the shopping cart handle is moved from the
15 at-rest position toward the displaced position;
wherein the cable applies a force on the braking force apparatus when the handle is
moved from the at-rest position toward the displaced position, and wherein the
braking force apparatus is configured for applying a braking force on at least one of
opposed faces of a shopping cart wheel and on a rolling surface of the shopping cart
20 wheel.

9. A shopping cart, comprising:

a shopping cart frame;

a handle assembly including an elongated handle having opposed ends and a pivoting
5 member attached between each one of said opposed ends and the shopping cart frame,
thereby enabling the elongated handle to be moved between an at-rest position and a
displaced position; and

a braking force apparatus coupled to the elongated handle and mounted on the shopping
cart frame adjacent to a wheel assembly mounting location of the shopping cart frame,
10 wherein the braking force apparatus is configured for being selectively movable
between a normally applied braking force state and a disengaged state when the
handle is correspondingly moved between the at-rest position and the displaced
position.

15 10. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

a cable connected between the elongated handle and the braking force apparatus, wherein
the cable applies a force for moving the braking force apparatus from the normally
applied braking force state to the disengaged state when the elongated handle is
moved from the at-rest position toward the displaced position.

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11. The system of claim 10, further comprising:

a resilient member coupled to the elongated handle bar, wherein the resilient member
biases the elongated handle bar toward the at-rest position whereby the cable exerts a
corresponding force on the braking force apparatus for biasing the braking force
25 apparatus to the normally applied braking force state.

12. The system of claim 9 wherein the braking force apparatus includes a resilient member
biasing the braking force apparatus to the normally applied braking force state.

13. The system of claim 9 wherein the braking force apparatus is configured for applying a braking force on at least one of opposed faces of a shopping cart wheel and a rolling surface of a shopping cart wheel.

5 14. The system of claim 9, further comprising:
a cable connected between the shopping cart handle and the braking force apparatus;
means for biasing the braking force apparatus to the normally applied braking force state;
and
means for applying a force on the cable when the shopping cart handle is moved from the
10 at-rest position toward the displaced position;
wherein the cable applies a force on the braking force apparatus when the handle is
moved from the at-rest position toward the displaced position, and wherein the
braking force apparatus is configured for applying a braking force on at least one of
opposed faces of a shopping cart wheel and on a rolling surface of the shopping cart
15 wheel.

15. A shopping cart, comprising:

a shopping cart frame;

a plurality of wheel assemblies mounted on the shopping cart frame;

a handle pivotally attached to the shopping cart frame, wherein the handle is movable
5 between an at-rest position and a displaced position;

a braking force apparatus coupled to the handle and mounted on the shopping cart frame
in a manner enabling a braking force to be applied on one of said wheel assemblies,
wherein the brake force apparatus applies the braking force when the handle is in the
at-rest position and disengages the braking force when the handle is moved toward the
10 displaced position.

16. The system of claim 15, further comprising:

a cable connected between the handle and the braking force apparatus, wherein the cable
applies a force for moving the braking force apparatus from the normally applied
15 braking force state to the disengaged state when the handle is moved from the at-rest
position toward the displaced position.

17. The system of claim 16, further comprising:

a resilient member coupled to the handle, wherein the resilient member biases the handle
20 toward the at-rest position whereby the cable exerts a corresponding force on the
braking force apparatus for biasing the braking force apparatus to the normally
applied braking force state.

18. The system of claim 15 wherein the braking force apparatus includes a resilient member
25 biasing the braking force apparatus to the normally applied braking force state.

19. The system of claim 15 wherein the braking force apparatus is configured for applying a
braking force on at least one of opposed faces of a shopping cart wheel and a rolling surface
of a shopping cart wheel.

20. The system of claim 16, further comprising:

a cable connected between the shopping cart handle and the braking force apparatus;
means for biasing the braking force apparatus to the normally applied braking force state;

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and

means for applying a force on the cable when the shopping cart handle is moved from the
at-rest position toward the displaced position;

wherein the cable applies a force on the braking force apparatus when the handle is
moved from the at-rest position toward the displaced position, and wherein the
braking force apparatus is configured for applying a braking force on at least one of
opposed faces of a shopping cart wheel and on a rolling surface of the shopping cart
wheel.

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